

OCTOBER 2006
NORTHERN COMMAND

SAFESTAT REPORT

Highway Patrol Division
Lieutenant Jerry Seevers

Overview

October is the traditional transition month in Northern Command from the busy summer season into the holiday season. The annual Nevada Day Parade was the only major event in the area. The Northern Command dedicated officers to participate in the parade and to provide traffic control at the points where US 395 was closed to vehicle traffic.

This month's northern Nevada Emergency Alert System test broadcast was conducted by the Northern Command. During the required test for broadcasters, citizens were reminded of the importance of safe driving and tire requirements during upcoming winter weather conditions.

Total crashes were reduced despite a shortage of available troopers on the road. The most significant improvement was the 20.6% reduction in injury crashes when compared to last month. In real numbers there were 33 fewer crashes resulting in injuries on northern Nevada roadways.

Enforcement efforts were down in almost every category. The Northern Command is continuing to train 4 newly arrived officers, and also remains 7 trooper positions waiting to be filled and/or to report for duty. These training needs deplete staff that are otherwise dedicated to full time enforcement efforts. The only positive note is the increase in education and enforcement of seatbelts laws. It should also be noted that although DUI arrests were down compared to a very strong September, they were up slightly when compared to last year.

The civilian staff continues to operate despite shortages in personnel there as well. We now are actively recruiting to fill 4 vacant dispatcher positions and the Front Office supervisor position.

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NORTHERN COMMAND

CRASH ANALYSIS AND OVERVIEW

	Oct 2006		Oct 2005	% Change		Sept 2006	% Change
Total Crashes	383		397	-3.5%		406	-5.7%
Property Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	252		265	-4.9%		242	4.1%
Injury Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	127		128	-0.8%		160	-20.6%
Fatal Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	4		4	0.0%		4	0.0%
DUI Crashes [DUI charged]	15		19	-21.1%		25	-40.0%
Total persons killed in fatal crashes	4		10	-60.0%		5	-20.0%
Total drivers killed without seatbelts	1		4	-75.0%		1	0.0%
Total passengers killed without seatbelts	0		0	0.0%		0	0.0%
Total drivers killed with seatbelts	2		0	200.0%		3	-33.3%
Total passengers killed with seatbelts	0		1	-100.0%		0	0.0%
Total persons killed - seatbelts not applicable	1		5	-80.0%		1	0.0%
Total number of commercial vehicle crashes	30		28	7.1%		25	20.0%
Property crashes involving commercial vehicles	19		25	-24.0%		20	-5.0%
Injury crashes involving commercial vehicle	9		3	200.0%		5	80.0%
Fatal crashes involving commercial vehicle	2		0	200.0%		0	200.0%

Percentage of fatal crashes to total crashes 1.0%

Percentage of DUI crashes to total crashes 3.9%

Percentage of persons killed *without* seatbelts to total persons killed 25.0%

Percentage of commercial vehicle crashes to total crashes 7.8%

CRASH ANALYSIS:

The Northern Command had a positive month in the total crash reduction efforts when compared to last month and last year. The decrease was 3.5% from last year and 5.7% from last month.

Property damage crashes dropped by 4.9% from last year, but rose 4.1% compared to last month.

Injury crashes dropped by .8% from last year and a very strong 20.6% from last month. Occupant Restraint citations increased by 36.1%, as we continue our efforts to educate the public in the correlation between injury crashes and seatbelt use.

Fatal crashes remained the same for last year and last month at 4. 2 of the fatal crashes involved commercial vehicles, although the overall ratio of commercial vehicle crashes remains low.

FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

[Analysis and review of current reporting period, versus same period in previous fiscal year, versus previous reporting period]

	Oct 2006		Oct 2005	% Change		Sept 2006	% Change
DUI arrests from crashes **	15		19	-21.1%		25	-40.0%
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes **	97		107	-9.3%		126	-23.0%
Other Arrests	486		480	1.3%		539	-9.8%
Total persons arrested (DUI included) **	231		214	7.9%		235	-1.7%
Speed violations	1674		2024	-17.3%		2150	-22.1%
Hazardous moving violations	701		840	-16.5%		752	-6.8%
Occupant restraint violations *	373		359	3.9%		274	36.1%
Total violations [above violations included]	5358		5668	-5.5%		5566	-3.7%
Commercial Enforcement							
Hazardous moving violations - citations/arrests	52		47	10.6%		82	-36.6%
Other traffic violations - citations/arrests	69		43	60.5%		60	15.0%
Total safety inspections [level 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6]	578		662	-12.7%		759	-23.8%
Terminal inspections [level 5] CR only	2		0	200.0%		1	100.0%
Total safety violations -- citation	200		275	-27.3%		344	-41.9%
Total safety violations -- repair order	1904		2247	-15.3%		2497	-23.7%
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	85		127	-33.1%		107	-20.6%
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	62		52	19.2%		97	-36.1%
Total school buses inspected	23		97	-76.3%		38	-39.5%
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	6		28	-78.6%		2	200.0%
Total trucks weighed	1014		114	789.5%		2566	-60.5%
Total overweight citations	23		31	-25.8%		22	4.5%
Total dyed fuel inspections	338		354	-4.5%		387	-12.7%
Total dyed fuel citations	1		1	0.0%		0	100.0%

* Seat belt and child restraint

** Commercial Enforcement Activity Included

FIELD ENFORCEMENT:

The field enforcement efforts were down in almost every category when compared to last month and last year. The decrease is attributed in large part to a loss in troopers available to work the road. There were 5 officers assigned to field training, and we are currently still carrying 7 vacancies. Although some relief is on the horizon, it will take time to train replacements and new hires to become fully field sufficient.

RENO URBAN TRAFFIC

Staffing issues continue to be problematic for the urban area. There were only 30 troopers available, however, there are three troopers in PSTO status and should be available within the next few months. That still leaves the urban area short 4 trooper positions. A trooper retired in September and a trooper has been extended on military duty through September 2007.

The urban area crash statistics decreased by 8.4% over last month and 8.8% over September 2005. No specific crash trends could be identified by reviewing the individual shift crash logs. Seventy two percent of the crashes were property damage while twenty eight percent were injury or claimed injury crashes. There were no fatal accidents in the urban area during the month of October.

Of the 207 crashes this month, 9 were identified as being alcohol related. This was down by 52% over the previous month and almost 20% over the same period last year. Despite the shortage of manpower, the total enforcement activity increased by 10% over the previous month and 13% over the same period last year.

Occupant Restraint violations continue to increase despite the downturn in staffing. During October 242 occupant restraint violations were written compared to last month's total of 150.

The urban area will continue to deploy strategies toward education and enforcement whenever possible and as staffing allows.

CARSON/TAHOE/MINDEN

The CTM District showed 9.4% increase in overall accidents comparatively to last year and a 1% decrease to last month. Property accidents decreased 4.2% compared to last year and increased 11.5% compared to last month. This is opposite to injury crashes that increased 35.3% compared to last year and decreased 14.8% compared to last month.

For the month of August, The CTM District investigated two (2) fatality accidents and one serious injury school bus crash. Dayshift handled a fatal auto pedestrian accident on US 50 near Airport Rd. The pedestrian was under the influence of alcohol when he stepped in front of a Ford Ranger pickup. The second fatal accident occurred on swing shift at US 395 at Airport road where the at-fault driver was killed. Alcohol was not a factor in this accident. The school bus accident occurred on US-395 at Riverview Drive involving a fully loaded Douglas County school bus. Overall, 12 people were injured in the accident. SIRT is managing all three (3) of the accidents in support of the CTM District.

Overall, all areas of field enforcement have decreased comparatively to last year as well as last month excluding DUI Arrest from crashes and other arrest compared to last year. DUI arrests prior to crash have increased by one (1) compared to last year and two (2) compared to last month or 20% and 50% respectively.

For the month of October, neither swing shift nor day shift conducted any directed enforcement programs.

A trooper is currently scheduled to complete his PSTO training on November 17, 2006. Another trooper is entering Phase B of PSTO and is expected to complete training in mid-February. A trooper is currently supporting the Warrants Section in anticipation of a trooper retiring in January.

FERNLEY/FALLON

The Fernley/Fallon District reported crash data for the month is encouraging when compared to a 12.8% increase in "work hours lost" compared to last year, and a 49.8% increase in "work hours lost" compared to last month. Although fatal crashes increased by one compared to last year, total crashes decreased 9.8% compared to last year and 3.5% compared to last month. Property damage crashes decreased by 18.4% compared to last year, and 22.5% compared to last month. Injury crashes remained the same as last year at 22 crashes. Both fatal crashes reported this month involved commercial vehicles. Total commercial vehicle crashes decreased 37.5% compared to last year, but increased 25% compared to last month. Property damage crashes went down 85.7% compared to last year, but injury and fatal crashes increased 200% respectively.

Total Field Enforcement Activity dropped in every reporting category except, DUI Arrests Prior to Crash, which increased from four to six, or 50% compared to last month. The remaining reporting categories reflect a decrease in activity ranging from as low as -7.5% to a high of -66.7%. Much of the drop in enforcement activity can be attributed to the 12.8% increase in "work hours lost," compared to last year.

The Fernley/Fallon District is still carrying one vacancy that is scheduled to be filled in January 2007.

COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT

The Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section currently has 22 assigned position control numbers. However, during the month of October, the commercial staffing level was again down by four. We still currently have two vacant positions and have another two troopers who were out on light-duty status for the entire month of October. In October, the "total work hours lost" was down approximately 11.7%, compared to the previous year.

In October, the Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section continued with its mandatory re-certification training. The time spent in training and instructing classes accounted for approximately 13.03% of the total time in October. Total overtime claimed for October was up approximately 36.1% from the previous year. This overtime included Strike Team operations, STEP program, range, training, Dignitary Protection Detail, and other special events/coverage.

At the end of September, the Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section had exceeded all of the goals and objectives set forth in the 2005-2006

Commercial Vehicle Safety Plan (CVSP). October is the first month in the new 2006-2007 Federal Fiscal Year. At the end of October, the Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section exceeded all of its year to date goals and objectives set forth in the 2006-2007 Commercial Vehicle Safety Plan (CVSP), with the exception of Motor Coach Level I's and II/III's.

In October, the Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section handled two property damage crashes and one injury crash. One of the property crashes involved a commercial motor vehicle (CMV). The commercial section also assisted the traffic division with ten crashes. Out of ten other crashes, nine involved a commercial motor vehicle.

In October 2006, the Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section sent one trooper to the California Highway Patrol (CHP) Academy to attend the General Roadside Hazardous Material Instructor class, which was sponsored by the FMCSA National Training Center. The Northern Command Commercial Enforcement will be utilizing this person in our effort to re-certify our personnel in basic General/Roadside Haz-Mat.

INTERAGENCY CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT (ICE) TEAM

This is the fourth month of statistics reporting for the DPS Northern Command ICE Team. There are no comparison statistics for prior annual periods.

The team handled one property damage and one injury crash in the Reno Urban area. Additionally, they assisted Traffic Operations with calls for service for more than 18.5 hours.

Field enforcement activity included:

- 1 contact where a subject was arrested for Possession of a Controlled Substance x2 (7 grams of marijuana, 3 grams of Meth)
- 4 other separate contacts where subjects were cited for less than an ounce of Marijuana
- 1 contact resulted in the deportation of 8 illegal aliens
- 1 contact resulted in a warrant service of a vehicle after a K9 alerted to the presence of narcotics (post-arrest), no contraband was located
- Additionally, there were 3 DUI's and several other misdemeanor arrests.

The ICE Team is currently staffed with 3 officers and 1 sergeant. Total work hours lost was 90.75, or 17.48% of the 692 total staff hours. This is not including the loss of our P & P officer for the entire month. Our officers attended Property Rights and Diversity Awareness training this month. We used 40 hours of Annual leave, 3.75 hours of Comp leave and 8 hours of Sick leave. There were 11.75 hours of claimed overtime and comp accrued.

The Sergeant spent many administrative hours ordering equipment and meeting with our partnering agencies to facilitate our coordinated efforts. So far, UNRPD has begun allocating staff and Washoe County should be soon to follow.

Equipment is beginning to roll in. Once this equipment is inventoried, it will be put to use in the field. To date, the officers have only had the availability of tools mainly purchased at our own cost.

AIR OPERATIONS

The Northern Command aircraft flew a total of 39.7 hours during October. Of the total, 28 hours, or 71% of the flight time, was spent on airborne speed enforcement. 25% of the flight time was spent on two in-state prisoner transports.

8 speed enforcement missions were scheduled and flown during the month. 416 enforcement actions were taken. Of these, 11 were hazardous moving violations, 48 were non-hazardous, 345 were for speeding and 12 seatbelt tickets were issued.

The FAA required class, *Law Enforcement Officer Flying Armed*, was taught in Reno on the 4th and 11th.

The aircraft experienced ongoing landing gear anomalies during the month. It was determined that the hydraulic power pack and motor unit needed replacing. This expensive undertaking (\$3586.00) will be split between NHP and NDOT.

Approval was obtained from the State Board of Examiners to accept and install the donated GPS unit and transponder. The aircraft was delivered to Chaparral Avionics in Minden on the 31st to have this accomplished. The airplane is expected to be operational November 13.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	Oct 2006	Oct 2005	% Change	Sept 2006	% Change
FRONT OFFICE					
Accident Reports Processed	400	465	-13.97%	295	+35.59%
Arrest Reports Processed	228	195	+16.92%	211	+8.05%
Incident / Officer Reports Processed	22	18	+22.22%	13	+69.23%
Office Accident Reports Taken	29	15	+93.33%	25	+16.00%
COURT / WARRANT					
Warrants Received	373	500	-25.4%	413	-9.7%
Warrants Entered	564	502	12.4%	391	44.2%
Warrants Cleared	330	550	-40.0%	241	36.9%
Warrants Validated	2063	213	868.5%	1220	69.1%
Citations Processed	3642	3816	-4.55%	3773	-3.47%
COMMUNICATION CENTER					
Radio Transmissions	156792	127131	23.33%	117873	33.02%
CAD incidents	20174	15711	28.41%	14833	36.01%

FRONT OFFICE

One AAI is still serving as the Acting Records Supervisor. Both clerks involved with the Warrants section have been heavily utilized for front office coverage due to the vacancy of the AAI position and front office staff changes. As well, these 2 clerks are still assisting with a few warrant validations and warrant confirmations, but have performed 41 court call-offs. They were responsible for 8 court runs, processing 39 subpoenas, processing 442 citations for court, and 35 pieces of transport and miscellaneous court paperwork.

Overtime utilized by the records section continues to be for assistance with the second-check backlog, archiving the 2001 DUI and fatal accident reports, and covering positions responsible for duties other than the front office.

The film clerk processed 149 Veripic cases this period, as well as 27 digital photo requests and 5-35mm requests. She is still assisting with Storekeeping duties and has made a large amount of progress in organizing and cleaning the storage warehouse.

Sick leave increased this period by 78%, with compensatory leave heavily increasing by 79% due to the cold and flu season. Annual leave decreased by 59%. Paid overtime decreased by 16%. Compensatory time earned increased drastically by 173% due to the front office changes.

Office reports taken increased to 29 for the month. Accident reports processed taken by troopers have increased by 36% this period. Arrest reports increased by 8%. Incident

reports taken by officers have also increased by 69%. Citations issued and processed decreased by 3%.

COURT WARRANTS

Court warrants personnel are functioning well with improved filing and record keeping. A new record keeping system has been put in place for Safestats. It is expected that this will more accurately reflect the work performed in Court Warrants. At this time, Dispatch personnel are aiding in the entering, packing, and double-checking of warrants until the backlog can be caught up. There is no historical data by which to compare, however, the Warrants section handled 4,904 warrants for this period, aside from their other functions such as court contacts, paperwork, and add books.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Northern Command Communication center is down 4 PSD I positions, awaiting backgrounds to attempt to fill. One PSD I is currently in training.

Total work hours lost increased by 52.93% since last month primarily due to an increase in annual and sick leave. It decreased by 16.21% from the previous year due to a decrease in sick leave.

Compensatory overtime increased by 338.33% when compared to last month. Overtime as a whole decreased by 27.07% when compared to the same period last year and increased by 75.51% when compared to last month. Vacant positions accounted for 52.9% of overtime, followed by training at 39.41%, annual leave at 25.82%, and meetings at 22.09%.

All but mandated training is being suspended at this time due to the lack of personnel.

Radio transmissions increased by 23.33% over this period last year and increased 33.02% since last month. CAD incidents have increased by 28.41% over last year and increased 36.01% since last month. These fluctuations appear to be caused by increased traffic calls and the number of units in the field.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR

The month of October was filled with a number of events generating plenty of extra assignments in the public relations office. We were privileged to provide a 90 minute traffic safety presentation to a group of Turkmen visitors who were in northern Nevada touring our state from Turkmenistan. Common accident causing violations, department policies, traffic laws and working closely with the media were some of the topic items discussed.

We were also invited to be part of a 60 minute documentary taped by the local public broadcasting television station (PBS) highlighting teen driving and awareness. Guest speakers and interviewees from around the country assembled in Reno and produced an educational piece that will hopefully be distributed to other PBS stations around the country. Perspectives from law enforcement,

insurance companies, parents and students were covered with a hopeful attempt to curtail teen-related accidents and deaths on our roadways.

Safety presentations were also delivered to a few groups of Boy and Girl Scouts during the month highlighting seatbelts, pedestrian safety, bike safety and stranger danger. Parents and group leaders were appreciative of our efforts in educating our youth.

A grant that was completed for three seatbelt convincer trailers was signed by Colonel Chris Perry during the month with a hopeful funding time frame of December 2006. This will provide the purchase of two trailers this year, one for Northern command and one for Southern Command, with the expectation of a third purchase next year for Central Command. The federal grant not only covers the costs for the equipment, but funding for give away items and overtime monies. Our commitment will be to visit one school per week educating our youth about the importance of seatbelt usage.

Our agency was invited to and participated in the annual safe Halloween event labeled "Safe Street" which was held at the Reno-sparks Conventions Center. Thousands of kids participated in the 4-hour event and were given stickers and told about the importance of buckling up. This received plenty of media coverage prior to and after the event thanking us for our participation.

As we approached the end of October, we part of Nevada's 142nd birthday by participating in the Nevada Day parade. This year we had a good showing of troopers in marked units and motorcycles with a bonus of having the Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) trailer as part of our entry.

Our last event for the month was held at the Governors Mansion handing out stickers to all of the trick-or-treaters who stopped by to see Governor Guinn and First Lady Dena Guinn. The crash dummies were a big hit with the children and parents alike reminding everyone to be safe and buckle up.

We are continuing with our weekday interviews on News Channel 8 and 94.5 Fm Cub Country providing the citizens of northern Nevada citizen with accurate up to the minute traffic reports.

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